



District 26-M7 ... Newsletter



November 2013

FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

As our Lions year continues to fly by, District 26-M7 is about to enter a new, exciting chapter in its history. For the first time in over 18 years, plans are in the works to form a new Lions Club. This traditional Lions Club will be based at Lincoln University and will consist of students, faculty, staff, alumni, neighborhood residents are anyone else that would like to join. This club is being formed with the intent of filling community needs on and around the Lincoln University campus, as well as throughout the Jefferson City area, to help promote Lions visions and values and promote Lincoln University.

I sincerely hope that each and every club within our district is supportive of this effort and will encourage the Lions of this new club to actively engage in club, district and state Lions functions. Just as within our own clubs, these new Lions need to feel welcome and be welcomed into our organization or it will be difficult to sustain membership in the new club.

As the holiday season rapidly approaches, Lions Clubs typically are less involved with fundraisers and service activities and more involved in planning Christmas parties for their clubs, businesses and families. It is this time of year when Lions should be most active is assessing the needs of their communities and be preparing to SERVE those around us that need our help the most. There's a multitude of ways for Lions to SERVE their community during the holidays. All it will take is just a little of our time. How many of you are truly too busy to spare a couple hours that could have a life-changing impact on someone?

“A ROARING GOOD TIME”

A great time was had by all on Friday, October 25, as Lions from around the state gathered to have a “Roaring Good Time” before the Council of Governor’s meeting on October 26 in Jefferson City. Thank you to those of you that came out for a fun filled evening. A special thank you goes out Lions Amy Bell, Lou Ann Hathcock and Jesse Hathcock for decorating and handling the food, Lion Greg Kliethermes for preparing the delicious barbecue, the Lion Eyes Band (Lions Stan Horn, Dan Muessig, Gary Kempker, Randy Doerhoff, Stan Idel and their manager, Lion Matt Muessig), Lion Chris Hilke for donating the beverages, Beau Voss for providing the hayrides and Reid Millard for donating the use of the facilities. The contributions of all these folks made for a wonderful evening. As Lions, we are often called upon to work hard for our clubs. We need to remember to relax and have fun occasionally also. Maybe something we could consider doing for the Lions of our district on an annual basis.....?

A special thank you also goes out to Pastor Joe Skiles and the Solid Rock Family Church for allowing the Missouri Lions to use their facilities for the October Council of Governors meeting. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

IN MEMORY: THOMAS L. PEOPLES

Lion Thomas L. Peoples, age 78, of Laurie, passed away Thursday, October 17, 2013. Tom was a United States Army veteran and worked as a general contractor for many years. He was a very active member of the Gravois Mills Lions Club. He served five terms as president, was the chairman of Bingo and organized many other functions. He was also a member of the American Legion Zack Wheat Post 624 in Sunrise Beach. Tom enjoyed spending his time building model steam engines. Most of all, he was an amazing grandpa who loved his grandchildren unconditionally. A celebration of Tom’s life was held on Tuesday, October 22nd, at the Gravois Mills Lions Club. Funeral services were held on Friday, October 25th, at Memorial Gardens Funeral Home in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

OCTOBER FESTIVAL AT GRAVOIS ARM LIONS CLUB

Lion Doris and Fred Naes’ truck was decorated for the October Festival at Gravius Arm Lions Club last Saturday. A lot of fun was had by all.



DISTRICT 26-M7 PARTICIPATES IN MOLATE



As part of the Joplin tornado recovery effort, the Missouri Lions initiated the Missouri Lions Adopting Trees for Education project. On Oct 19th, Lions from across the state gathered to landscape the grounds of the new Irving Elementary School. The school is located on the grounds where St. John's Hospital was located. The school's teachers and staff will move in to the new building over the Christmas break with the students moving to the building when school resumes in January 2014.



ID Donal Knipp carefully listens to instructions before getting to work.



Lions Betty Knipp and Jesse Hathcock put the finishing touches on the mulch after planting.

Missouri Lions raised \$25,000 to provide the landscaping and help the faculty and staff get their new school ready.

The Joplin Host Lions served a piping hot lunch to the hard-working Lions. The Joplin Schools District Superintendent provided a guided tour of the new facility, which features a reinforced community shelter.



JC BREAKFAST LIONS AT THE MULTI-CULTURAL FORUM

The JC Breakfast Lions were active at the JC Multi-Cultural Forum on October 12, 2013. The Lions provided vision screening and distributed books to many of those attending the Forum in downtown Jefferson City. Approximately 100 persons received the vision screening services during the three hours an employee of Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation was available. As part of the Lions Reading Action Program, the club collected and sorted over 300 books that were given to children and adults attending the event.



Lions Don Colter and Jesse Hathcock help hand out free books at the JC Multi-Cultural Forum

MISSOURI LIONS MID-WINTER FORUM FEBRUARY 7-8, 2014

Have you attended a Mid-Winter Forum in the past? If not, why not? Those who have attended the Forum will tell you this is a great place to meet others from Missouri who share your passion for service to others. The 2014 Mid-Winter Forum is geared to helping all Lions identify and reach their full potential as Lions as well as in their personal and professional lives.

The MD 26 Global Leadership Team is working hard to give the Missouri Lions a great opportunity to grow and have fun. The 2014 Mid-Winter Forum is an event you will not want to miss. We have a great new venue and exciting programs that will provide Lions information that is very useful in their daily lives as well as in their Lions' service.

While the Forum remains in Branson, we are moving to a new location -- Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa and Convention Center (<http://www.chateauonthelake.com/>). The Missouri Lions have a special rate of \$79 per night for the lake view and mountain view rooms. The Ambassador Suites are available for \$149 per night. As a special offer, these low rates are available for two nights before the Forum and two nights after the Forum; you may want to make a mini-vacation in Branson in addition to attending the Forum.

The full registration (\$35) includes Friday evening hospitality, all seminars on Saturday, and the lunch on Saturday. Anyone planning on attending any of the seminars will need a full registration. If you will be attending only the hospitality on Friday and the lunch on Saturday, a lunch registration (\$20) is all that is needed.

An optional Saturday Dinner and Magic Show at the Chateau on the Lake Resort Hotel is also available. The cost is \$30 per person, which includes dinner and the Magic Show. **This cost is not included in the Full Registration and is a separate charge.**

Reservations and payment to Missouri Lions MUST be postmarked by January 27, 2014. To guarantee your spot at this great Forum, we ask that you make an extra effort to register early.

Additional information and the registration form are available on the Missouri Lions web site (www.missourilions.org). Look under the "Training" tab. After November 15, a link to the 2014 Missouri Lions Mid-Winter Forum will be available, as well.

Make your plans now to attend the 2014 Missouri Lions Mid-Winter Forum!

If you have any questions concerning the Mid-Winter Forum, please contact Lion Jesse Hathcock at Jess26M7@aol.com or 573-761-4438.

LOCAL LIONS REACH MEMBERSHIP MILESTONES



Two members of the Jefferson City Host Lions Club received membership recognition. PDG Lion Ron Jordan was honored for 50 years of membership and 50 years of 100% attendance. Lion Vernon Towner was honored for 55 years of membership.

Far left picture: DG Jeff Hilke and PDG Lion Ron Jordan. Second picture: Lion Vernon Towner and DG Jeff Hilke.

A member of the Jefferson City Evening Lions Club received membership recognition. Lion Paul Gardner was honored for 50 years of membership.

Pictured on the right: DG Jeff Hilke presenting Lion Paul Gardner with a plaque for his years of service.



LOCAL LION RECEIVES THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL



In the picture (left), International Director Donal Knipp presents Lion Ed Bierbower, a member of the Eldon Lions Club, the Presidential Medal in recognition of his dedication to Lionism.

MLERF NEWS

WE ARE LIONS. WE ARE SAVING SIGHT

The Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation will operate under the name Saving Sight as of December 1, 2013. The moniker change was approved by the board of directors at their meeting in September because it will unite several sight-saving programs, including Heartland Lions Eye Banks and Children's Vision Screening, under a single brand identity. "Saving Sight is going to sharpen the focus of our organization and make it easier to communicate all the great work our staff and volunteers are doing," said Chief Executive Officer Lion Tony Bavuso.



Refining the Foundation's identity is a key objective in our strategic plan, a five-part document created by board members and staff to guide development over the next three years (note: Lions club presidents received a copy of the strategic plan in mid-October to share with members). "We chose Saving Sight because it clearly and concisely describes what all of our programs do to help people," said Lion Tony. "With the strategic plan in place, now is the time to execute a name change that'll help us achieve our mission: we change lives by saving sight."

The name change also offers the Missouri Lions an opportunity to grow its membership. As President of the Board of Directors PCC Al Blumenberg put it, "The marketing possibilities of this new name are tremendous, in that it will be very easy for us to point to our State Sight Project and say, 'We are Lions. We are Saving Sight.' Who wouldn't want to be a part of a group of people committed to such a cause?" The Missouri Lions have been crucial to the development of the Foundation through governance, fundraising, and volunteerism, and they will continue to be so in this next chapter in the Foundation's development. In fact, the strategic plan requires staff to develop 1) new ways for Lions to volunteer and 2) a recognition program to highlight those Lions and Lions clubs that make a difference in their communities through the Foundation's programs.

The rebranding will involve some logistical changes. Office locations and phone numbers will remain the same, but the new website (www.saving-sight.org), social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Vimeo) and email addresses (e.g., JDoe@saving-sight.org) will go live on December 1, 2013. For everyone's convenience, though, the current websites (www.mlerf.org and www.hleb.org) and email addresses will redirect automatically to the new site and addresses starting December 1.

To get more involved with Saving Sight or to ask questions, please contact pr@mlerf.org or 800-283-1982. To view the Saving Sight video or access the strategic plan online, visit <http://www.mlerf.org/we-are-saving-sight>.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP YOU BETTER...

Communication is important and necessary to the continued success of our organization. Communication can be made in a variety of ways. With today's technology, there have been advancements in effective and efficient mass communication. When email was first introduced, everyone kept their addresses protected to avoid unwanted solicitations, now known as "Spam," and only had access to email while at work.

Today, email is a way of life. Virtually everyone uses email to conduct business, pay bills, and stay in touch with family members. Many of us have email available to us in our homes and even on our cellular phones.



We are in the process of trying to update the email distribution list used by district 26-M7 to notify Lions of upcoming meetings and to distribute our district and state newsletter. While reviewing the membership rosters of our district's clubs, I have noticed that a majority of Lions don't have an email address listed, or that the addresses are entered incorrectly. Club secretaries, we know most clubs use email to communicate with club members. Please enter these email addresses into your club rosters when submitting your monthly reports to LCI. Additionally, and more importantly, we ask you to share those addresses with the district. You can be assured that any email addresses shared with us will only be used for newsletter distributions, meeting notifications, or other important communications. We won't sell the list to anyone or use it to share jokes or any non-Lions information. Any email information can be sent to District Governor Jeff Hilke at lionjeffhilke@gmail.com. Your help is greatly appreciated!

SPREADING THE NEWS



District 26-M7 Information Technology Committee is working to keep all of our district "in the know." There are a variety of ways that we will be using the web to distribute information to those in the district and beyond.

We have created a Calendar of Events on the website (<http://www.e-district.org/sites/26m7>) that can promote all the clubs events. All a club has to do to add their event is send an email to DG Jeff Hilke (lionjeffhilke@gmail.com) or Lion Amy Bell (lionamybell@gmail.com). Please include the club name, event name, date, time, location, cost and contact information.

We also have the District Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MoLions26m7>. This can be used to share photos, upcoming events and club involvement in the community. We ask that you like our page and share it with all your friends, regardless of whether they are Lions or not.

Be proud of all you accomplish through your clubs and help spread the word about what Lions do for you and your communities!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: [HTTP://WWW.E-DISTRICT.ORG/SITES/26M7](http://www.e-district.org/sites/26m7)

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| November 13 | 26M7 Cabinet Meeting
6pm Social; 6:30pm Meeting
Lake Ozark Lions Club
131 Fish Haven Road, Lake Ozark |
| November 16 | Gravois Arm Lions Chicken Dinner
10am – 2pm
Gravois Arm Lions Club
26691 Hwy 5, Gravois Mills, MO |
| December 13 | Salvation Army Bell Ringing
Jefferson City area Lions Clubs
Various locations throughout Jefferson City |
| January 25 | Council of Governors Meeting
10am
Best Western State Fair
Sedalia, MO |
| February 18 | 26M7 Cabinet Meeting
6pm Social; 6:30pm Meeting
Fulton Lions Club
1 Ray Woerth Drive, Fulton, MO |